

Attorney Docket No. P13370-US2
Customer Number 27045

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 15-17, and 31-32; claims 2, 14, 18, and 30 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-13, 15-17, 19-29, and 31-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections - Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 14 and 30 because of Informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17 (which now incorporates the elements of claims 14 and 30) as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Porta, et al. (US 6,496,505 B2).

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 14-16 and 30-32. Solely in order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 14 and 30 without prejudice. Furthermore, the elements of claim 14 have been incorporated into claim 1. Similarly, the elements of claim 30 have been incorporated into claim 17. Therefore, the 103(a) rejection with respect to claims 1 and 17 is deemed to be moot. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 19, and 20 depend from amended claims 1 and 17 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of amended claims 1 and 17. Therefore, the allowance of claims 3, 4, 19, and 20 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-10, 12, 13, 21-26, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Porta in view of Khalil, et al. (US 6,578,085 B1).

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Claims 5-10, 12, 13, 21-26, 28 and 29 depend from amended claims 1 and 17 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of amended claims 1 and 17. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The allowance of claims 5-10, 12, 13, 21-26, 28 and 29 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Porta in view of applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claim 11 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of amended claim 1. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 11 is deemed to be moot. The allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Porta and Khalil, and further in view of applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claim 27 depends from amended claim 17 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of amended claim 17. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 27 is deemed to be moot. The allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

4.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 14-16 and 30-32. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 14 and 30 have been rewritten and incorporated into independent claims 1 and 17, including all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

CONCLUSION

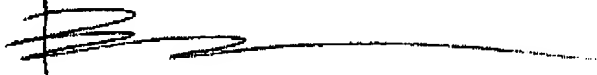
In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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